

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 8-10, 12, 13 and 19 are rejected over the patent to Hall, et al, in view of the patent to Wirtz.

Claims 16 and 17 are rejected over the patent to Hall in view of the patent to Wirtz and Cayzac.

Claim 18 is objected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the patent to Hall in view of the patents to Wirtz and Ishida.

Also, claims 13 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112.

The drawings are objected to.

At the same time the Examiner indicated that claims 14, 15, and 20 are allowed and claim 11 has not been rejected.

The Examiner's indication of the allowance of claims 14, 15, and 20 has been gratefully acknowledged. In connection with this indication, these claims have been retained as they were.

In view of the Examiner's statement that claim 11 can be also allowable, applicants amended claim 11 by introducing into it the features of claim 8, from which this claim was dependent, thus making it independent.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 11 should be considered as being in allowable condition, together with claim 12 which was amended to depend on claim 11.

Claim 8 has been canceled. Claims 13 and 16-19 objected to by the Examiner have been canceled as well.

Claim 9 has been amended to depend on claim 11 and this claim, together with claim 10 which depends on claim 9, should also be in allowable condition since these claims share the allowable features of claim 11.

It is therefore believed that all the claims currently on file should be considered as being in allowable condition.

Applicant has also submitted a copy of the drawing, in compliance with the Examiner's requirements.

In view of the above presented remarks and amendments, reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,



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